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DA QA/QC: 02/20/01. SY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Audit Report - Operations Familiarization Course

1. In commenting on this report you expressed concern about the inference that students consider the purpose of the OFC to be "to see how much a person can take." You observed further that this should not be the prevalent opinion and that students generally should have a principal impression of learning during training courses rather than of being tested.

2. I agree entirely with the second point and would share more strongly your concern over the first if I felt this to be truly the prevalent student opinion. After some inquiry into the matter, I am convinced that relatively few students gain or report this impression.

3. The OFC is not an easy course and inevitably some students will feel that the pressure is too heavy. Emphasis is constantly on imparting knowledge, and applying the understanding gained in problems and practical exercises. Testing and evaluation of performance are necessary, for the information both of the student and his supervisors. We have tried to keep a proper balance between teaching and evaluation; a great deal of thought and experimentation have been devoted to the problem; and it will be under continuing review. I have the feeling, however, that if people are selected carefully to take the course, and if supervisors recognize that an inferior performance in the course may bear little relationship to the ability of the individual to perform effectively in a specialized assignment, we will be able to minimize this problem.

MATTHEW BAIRD  
Director of Training

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